

RUTH L. KIRSCHSTEIN NATIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE AWARD (NRSA)
STIPEND INCREASE AND OTHER BUDGETARY CHANGES EFFECTIVE FOR
FISCAL YEAR 2004

RELEASE DATE: February 5, 2004

NOTICE: NOT-OD-04-023

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

(<http://www.nih.gov/>)

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

(<http://www.ahrq.gov/>)

Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA)

(<http://www.hrsa.gov/>)

The budgetary changes described below for Fiscal Year 2004 Kirschstein-NRSA awards affect the stipend levels for undergraduate, predoctoral and postdoctoral trainees and fellows. In addition, for informational purposes only, the Training Related Expenses for trainees and the Institutional Allowance for individual fellows are shown. These budget categories are not being increased. Only undergraduate, predoctoral and postdoctoral stipends are increased this fiscal year.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE DESCRIBED BUDGETARY CHANGES ARE EFFECTIVE ONLY FOR KIRSCHSTEIN-NRSA AWARDS MADE WITH FY 2004 FUNDS. Retroactive adjustments or supplementation of stipends or other budgetary categories with Kirschstein-NRSA funds for an award made prior to October 1, 2003 is not permitted. Budgetary adjustments for training grant and fellowship awards, therefore, will be made only at the time of the FY 2004 award. Adjustments of stipends and other benefits for trainees will be made only at the time of appointment or reappointment to training grants made with FY 2004 funds.

STIPENDS: Effective with all Kirschstein-NRSA awards made on or after October 1, 2003, the following annual stipend levels apply to all individuals receiving support through institutional research training grants or individual fellowships, including the Minority Access to Research Career (MARC) and Career Opportunities in Research (COR) programs. These awards are made under the authority of Section 487 of the Public Health Service Act (as amended).

The stipend levels are as follows:

Career Level	Stipend for FY 2004
Undergraduates in the MARC and COR Programs	
Freshmen/Sophomores	\$ 7,812
Juniors/Seniors	\$ 10,956

Predoctoral \$ 20,772

Postdoctoral

Years of Experience

0	\$ 35,568
1	\$ 37,476
2	\$ 41,796
3	\$ 43,428
4	\$ 45,048
5	\$ 46,992
6	\$ 48,852
7 or more	\$ 51,036

Competing and non-competing awards issued on or after October 1, 2003, which used the FY2003 stipend schedule, will be revised by the NIH awarding component to reflect the new stipend levels. The new stipend levels are to be used in the preparation of future competing and non-competing NRSA institutional training grant and individual fellowship applications. They will be administratively applied to all applications now in the review process.

The NIH remains committed to gradual stipend increases for predocs and postdocs as articulated in the NIH Statement in Response to the National Academy of Sciences Report: Addressing the Nation's Changing Needs for Biomedical and Behavioral Scientists, which is available at

http://grants.nih.gov/training/nas_report/NIHResponse.htm. In keeping with that statement, the NIH encourages institutions to limit the duration of graduate and postdoctoral training to the extent possible. In most cases, graduate and postdoctoral research training from any source should not exceed 6 years and 5 years, respectively. The NIH retains eight levels of postdoctoral stipends to accommodate individuals who complete other forms of health-related training prior to accepting a Kirschstein-NRSA supported position. The presence of eight discrete levels of experience should not be construed as an endorsement of extended periods of postdoctoral research training.

It should be noted that the increase in the zero level postdoctoral stipend will increase the maximum amount that NIH will award to support the compensation package for a graduate student research assistant as described at

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-02-017.html>.

INSTITUTIONAL ALLOWANCE AND TRAINING RELATED EXPENSES FOR KIRSCHSTEIN-NRSA RECIPIENTS:

The Training Related Expenses for each predoctoral and postdoctoral trainee as well as the Institutional Allowance for all predoctoral and postdoctoral fellows remains at the amounts shown below for all awards made with FY 2004 funds:

Training Related Expenses on Institutional Training Grants

Predoctoral Trainees: \$2,200
Postdoctoral Trainees: \$3,850

Institutional Allowance on Individual Fellows Sponsored by non-Federal Public & Private Institutions (Domestic & Foreign)

Predoctoral Fellows: \$2,750
Postdoctoral Fellows: \$5,500

Institutional Allowance for Individual Fellows Sponsored by Federal and For-Profit Institutions

Predoctoral Fellows: \$1,650
Postdoctoral Fellows: \$4,400

Expenses allowed within these cost categories are described in the appropriate program announcements, which can be found at <http://grants.nih.gov/training/nrsa.htm>. These amounts will be applied to all competing and non-competing NRSA awards made with FY 2004 funds. These levels are to be used in the preparation of future competing and non-competing Kirschstein-NRSA institutional training grant and individual fellowship applications. They will be administratively applied to all applications now in the review process.

INQUIRIES

Questions concerning this notice or other policies relating to training grants or fellowships should be directed to the grants management office in the appropriate NIH Institute or Center.

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